WE CLAIM:

1. A method of treating scleroderma in a mammal with that disease comprising administering to the mammal a physiologically effective amount of an inhibitor of PDE2 wherein said inhibitor does not substantially inhibit COX I or COX II.

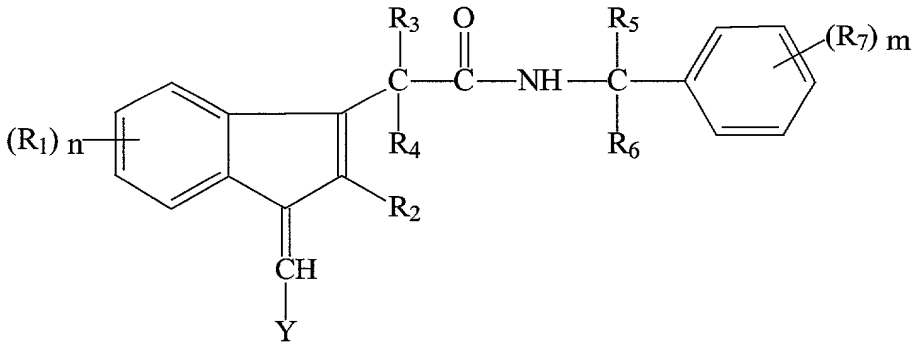
2. The method of claim 1 wherein mammal is also administered an inhibitor of PDE5.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said inhibitor of PDE2 and PDE5 comprise the same compound.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said inhibitor is administered without an NSAID.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said inhibitor has an IC_{50} for PDE2 of no more than about 25 μM. and has an IC_{50} for each of the COX enzymes greater than about 40 μM.

6. A method of treating scleroderma in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal a compound of the formula:



wherein R_1 is independently selected in each instance from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl, loweralkoxy, amino, loweralkylamino, di-loweralkylamino, loweralkylmercapto, loweralkyl sulfonyl, cyano, carboxamide, carboxylic acid, mercapto, sulfonic acid, xanthate and hydroxy;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, amino, hydroxy, lower alkyl amino, and di-loweralkylamino;

R_4 is hydrogen, or R_3 and R_4 together are oxygen;

R_5 and R_6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy-substituted lower alkyl, amino lower alkyl, lower alkylamino-lower alkyl, lower alkyl amino di-lower alkyl, lower alkyl nitrile, $-CO_2H$, $-C(O)NH_2$, and a C_2 to C_6 amino acid;

R_7 is independently selected in each instance from the group consisting of hydrogen, amino lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, hydroxy, amino, lower alkyl amino, di-lower alkyl amino, amino lower alkyl, halogen, $-CO_2H$, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2NH_2$, and $-SO_2$(lower alkyl);

m and n are integers from 0 to 3 independently selected from one another;

Y is selected from the group consisting of quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, imidazolyl, indolyl, benzimidazolyl, triazinyl, tetrazolyl, thiophenyl, furanyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, or pyrrolyl, or substituted variants thereof wherein the substituents are one or two selected from the group consisting of halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, amino, lower alkylamino, di-lower alkylamino, hydroxy, $-SO_2$(lower alkyl) and $-SO_2NH_2$; and

pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein Y is selected from pyridinyl or quinolonyl.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of halogen, lower alkoxy, amino, hydroxy, lower alkylamino and di-loweralkylamino.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of halogen, lower alkoxy, amino and hydroxy.

10. The method of claim 6 wherein R_2 is lower alkyl.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein R_2 is lower alkyl.

12. The method of claim 6 wherein R_3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, amino, lower alkylamino and di-loweralkylamino.

13. The method of claim 9 wherein R_3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, amino, lower alkylamino and di-loweralkylamino.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein R_3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy and lower alkylamino.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein R_3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy and lower alkylamino.

16. The method of claim 6 wherein R_5 and R_6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy-substituted lower alkyl, amino lower alkyl, lower alkylamino-lower alkyl, lower alkyl amino di-lower alkyl, $-CO_2H$, $-C(O)NH_2$.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein R_5 and R_6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy-substituted lower alkyl, amino lower alkyl, lower alkylamino-lower alkyl, lower alkyl amino di-lower alkyl, $-CO_2H$, $-C(O)NH_2$.

18. The method of claim 6 wherein R_5 and R_6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy-substituted lower alkyl, lower alkyl amino di-lower alkyl, $-CO_2H$, $-C(O)NH_2$.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein R_5 and R_6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy-substituted lower alkyl, lower alkyl amino di-lower alkyl, $-CO_2H$, $-C(O)NH_2$.

20. The method of claim 6 wherein R_7 is independently selected in each instance from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkoxy, hydroxy, amino, lower alkyl amino, di-lower alkyl amino, halogen, $-CO_2H$, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2NH_2$, amino lower alkyl, and $-SO_2$(lower alkyl).

21. The method of claim 19 wherein R_7 is independently selected in each instance from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkoxy, hydroxy, amino, lower alkyl amino, di-lower alkyl amino, halogen, $-CO_2H$, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2NH_2$, amino lower alkyl, and $-SO_2$(lower alkyl).

22. The method of claim 6 wherein R_7 is independently selected in each instance from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkoxy, hydroxy, amino, halogen, $-CO_2H$, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2NH_2$, amino lower alkyl, and $-SO_2$(lower alkyl).

23. The method of claim 18 wherein R_7 is independently selected in each instance from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkoxy, hydroxy, amino, halogen, $-CO_2H$, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2NH_2$, amino lower alkyl, and $-SO_2$(lower alkyl).

24. The method of claim 22 wherein at least one of the R_7 substituents is ortho- or para-located.

25. The method of claim 23 wherein at least one of the R_7 substituents is ortho- or para-located.

26. The method of claim 24 wherein at least one of the R_7 substituents is ortho-located.

27. The method of claim 25 wherein at least one of the R_7 substituents is ortho-located.

28. The method of claim 6 wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl and pyrazinyl or said substituted variants thereof.

29. The method of claim 6 wherein said compound comprises (Z)-5-fluoro-2-methyl-(4-pyridylidene)-3-(N-benzyl)indenylacetamide hydrochloride.

30. The method of claim 6 wherein said compound comprises (Z)-5-fluoro-2-methyl-(4-pyridylidene)-3-(N-benzyl)-indenylacetamide p-methylbenzenesulfonate.

31. A method of inhibiting activated macrophages in a mammal with scleroderma comprising chronically administering to the mammal a physiologically effective amount of an inhibitor of PDE2.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein mammal is also administered an inhibitor of PDE5.

33. The method of claim 32 wherein said inhibitor of PDE2 and PDE5 comprise the same compound.

34. The method of claim 31 wherein said inhibitor does not substantially inhibit COX I or COX II.

35. The method of claim 33 wherein said inhibitor does not substantially inhibit COX I or COX II.

36. The method of claim 31 wherein the mammal is a companion pet.

37. The method of claim 36 wherein the mammal is human.

38. A method of treating scleroderma in a mammal with that disease comprising inhibiting PDE2 in the diseased tissue without substantially inhibiting COX I or COX II.

39. A method of treating scleroderma in a mammal with that disease comprising inhibiting PDE2 in the diseased tissue.

40. A method of inhibiting activated macrophages in a mammal with scleroderma comprising chronically administering to the mammal a physiologically

effective amount of an inhibitor of PDE2 having a PDE2 IC_{50} no more than about 25 μM and having a COX IC_{50} greater than about 40 μM.